

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01402 291630Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 ACDA-07 SY-05 USSS-00 SSM-03
/072 W

-----300403Z 028099 /22

R 291548Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3481
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1402

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS

1. I HAVE JUST (MARCH 29) COME FROM VISIT TO FOREIGN
MINISTER FOUAD BOUTROS'S RESIDENCE IN ASHRAFIYAH. HE
LIVES IN VERY ELEGANT APARTMENT ON TOP TWO FLOORS
(SIXTH AND SEVENTH) OF HIS OWN BUILDING. BOMB WAS SET
OFF IN HALLWAY JUST OUTSIDE SERVICE ENTRANCE ON
SEVENTH FLOOR. EXPLOSION RIPPED OUT MOST OF PARTITION
WALLS ON THAT FLOOR AND SHATTERED EVERY WINDOW ON
BOTH FLOORS. BOMB WAS NOT IN ELEVATOR AS ORIGINALLY
ANNOUNCED, BUT WAS NEXT TO ELEVATOR SHAFT, AND
ELEVATOR CAR PRACTICALLY DESTROYED. THERE WAS
CONSIDERABLE DESTRUCTION ON SIXTH FLOOR AS WELL,
WHERE THE BOUTROSES WERE SLEEPING, BUT THEIR
BEDROOMS WERE FORTUNATELY AT OTHER END OF
APARTMENT FROM SERVICE ENTRANCE.

2. I TOLD BOUTROS THAT WE HAD HEARD PEOPLE WERE
MUTTERING THREATS AGAINST HIM BUT REALLY DID NOT
THINK ANYONE WOULD GO THAT FAR. I ASKED HIM WHAT
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HAPPENED TO GUARD ON BUILDING, AND HE REPLIED THAT
THERE HAD NOT BEEN ONE. THEY DID NOT EVEN LOCK
THEIR DOORS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO PERSONAL ENEMIES
AND COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT ANYONE WOULD TRY TO
KILL HIM. HE HAS NOW, SOMEWHAT BELATEDLY,
INSTALLED GUARDS.

3. WHILE BOMBING COMES IN CONTEXT OF OPEN
OPPOSITION TO CHANGE IN ARMY COMMAND WHICH IS
HEADED BY CHAMOUN AND BECHIR GEMAYEL WING OF
PHALANGE, VIEWS ARE DIVIDED AS TO WHETHER IT WAS
WORK OF DISGRUNTLED ARMY PERSONNEL OR POLITICAL
EXTREMISTS. IN ANY EVENT IT ILLUSTRATES CURRENT
LEVEL OF CIVIC IRRESPONSIBILITY AND LENGTHS TO
WHICH CURRENT POLITICAL ILL WILL CARRIES PEOPLE.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, BOMBING, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT01402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770108-0507
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770313/aaaaaktk.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f250a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2970271
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS
TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE, (BOUTROS, FOUAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f250a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009